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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 62nd, 63rd, 68th and resumed 68th meetings, on 18 and 29 May and 26 June 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.62, 63, 68 and 68/Add.1).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/52/770 and A/52/787) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/860/Add.2).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/52/L.44

4. At the 68th meeting, on 29 May, the Rapporteur and coordinator of the informal consultations on item 131, on behalf of the Chairman, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia" (A/C.5/52/L.44) and orally revised it as follows:

(a) Footnote 2, which had read "A/52/860 and Add.2" was replaced by "A/52/860/Add.2";

(b) A new paragraph was inserted after operative paragraph 5, reading:

"6. Decides to examine the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for five per cent across-the-board reductions of the budget proposals of the Secretary-General in the light of the next series of relevant financial performance reports",

and the remaining paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(c) In operative paragraph 8 (former paragraph 7), the words "operational and substantive" were deleted before the word "requirements";

(d) In operative paragraph 9 (former paragraph 8), the words "and the amount of _____ dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi" were deleted after the words "support account for peacekeeping operations".

5. At its 68th meeting, on 29 May and 26 June, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.44, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, by which the Council approved the deployment of an advance team of up to ten United Nations military observers for a period of three months and the incorporation of the advance team into a United Nations observer mission if such a mission was formally established by the Council,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Observer Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1150 (1998) of 30 January 1998,

Recalling further its decision 48/475 A of 23 December 1993 on the financing of the Observer Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 51/236 of 13 June 1997,

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[1] A/52/770 and A/52/787.

[2] A/52/860/Add.2.

Reaffirming that the costs of the Observer Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Observer Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Observer Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia as at 15 May 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 6.4 million United States dollars, representing 10 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Observer Mission to the period ending 30 June 1998, notes that some 22 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Observer Mission in full and on time;

5. Takes note of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

6. Decides to examine the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for five per cent across-the-board

reductions of the budget proposals of the Secretary-General in the light of the next series of relevant financial performance reports;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Observer Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Observer Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

9. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia the amount of 19,439,280 dollars gross (18,452,580 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, inclusive of the amount of 989,880 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be apportioned, as an ad hoc arrangement, among Member States at a monthly rate of 1,619,940 dollars gross (1,537,715 dollars net) in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A, B and C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B and 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Observer Mission beyond 31 July 1998;

10. Decides also that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 986,700 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

11. Decides further that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Observer Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance of 818,300 dollars gross (616,700 dollars net) in respect of the period ending 30 June 1997;

12. Decides that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Observer Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 818,300 dollars gross (616,700 dollars net) for the period ending 30 June 1997 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

13. Invites voluntary contributions to the Observer Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia".